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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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VOL. 3. NO. 18 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1913. WHOLE NO. 122

THE BINGHAMTON TRAGEDY.

Binghamton, N. Y., Aug. 2.—According to the latest information, the dead in the Binghampton Clothing Company fire reaches forty-one, although there are still sixteen persons missing. Twenty-nine bodies have been recovered from the ruins, but only five of these have been positively identified. The investigation has developed facts which show criminal negligence, either upon the part of the owners of the building or the factory inspectors. It is stated that the factory was operated in absolute defiance of the law, it having but one continuous exit from the fourth floor, the law requiring that there must be at least two. There were no real solid treads upon the fire escapes, and the general construction of the fire escapes did not conform to the law. If it is proven that inspectors examined the building and passed the fire escapes as adequate, it is asserted that their action was criminal. One official of the State, who was here with other State officials, declared that the factory was a death trap. Mr. Whiskeman, who made an investigation of the Triangle fire for District Attorney Whitman, declared that there was more criminal carelessness in the fire here than at the Triangle blaze. His investigation revealed the fact that a stairway running through the company's building had been removed to make room for more manufacturing area. "It is another case of dollars and cents being placed above human life," was Mr. Whiskeman's statement. Another statement which has been given out is to the effect that attention was called by one of the employes to the unusual heat in the building at 1 o'clock, and that smoke was noticeable at 2 o'clock, while the flames were discovered at 2:30. This indicates again a lack of precaution in the conduct of the factory. This is one more instance where a desire for profit had grown to such an extent as to practically waive aside even the slightest precaution for the protection of workmen and workwomen.

TO PUNISH LANDLORDS.

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 2.—Commissioner of Public Safety D. C. Coates, a member of the Typographical Union, proposes to take advantage of what is termed the abatement law to eliminate from this city public houses of prostitution. He has announced that the law is to be enforced. According to the new abatement law, it is up to the owner to see that prostitution is not carried on in his building on penalty of having the same closed to any business for six months, and furniture and effects confiscated. It has heretofore been the custom to make periodical raids upon these resorts, resulting in the fining of the habitues anywhere from $25 to $100. It was only recently that Dave Coates was transferred, under the commission form of government, from the Commissioner of Property to the Commissioner of Public Safety. Under his former position the men employed by the city received an advance in wages and worked under good conditions. Influences largely of an invisible character secured his transfer from that department to the Commissioner of Public Safety, this with the evident purpose of restricting his activity along humanitarian lines. As cited above, it is quite evident that the mercenaries and invisible interests have been unable to lose Dave Coates.

A GOOD LAW.

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 2.—The Governor has signed what is known as the Hidinger Bill, which provides for better housing conditions. The act creates a division of housing and sanitation, subject to the Department of Public Health and Charities. This act provides that no room in any tenement constructed since June 7, 1895, shall be occupied for living purposes unless it has a window lighting area of at least twelve feet square. Manufacturing within rooms of tenements and dwellings is prohibited. Tenements must have an open space in the rear or at the side equal to 20 per cent of the lot, unless such tenement is located upon the corner of two streets, each more than twenty feet in width. Licenses will be granted by the Board of Health for $1 to owners or lessees, and the taking out of such license is obligatory.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION.

Austin, Tex., Aug. 2.—The organized employes on the railroads in this State are confronting a situation that is considered to be dangerous. The Thirty-third Legislature is in special session, and it is understood that a bill providing for compulsory arbitration will be introduced, the Governor favoring the enactment of such a law. While it may be possible that the Legislature will pass a measure of this character it would not stand the test of the courts. The recent mediation bill passed by Congress carries with it a specific provision which precludes any court or legal process being employed to compel any individual to work in accordance with any award arrived at through mediation, conciliation, or arbitration.

MUST OBSERVE THE LAW.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The legal department of the government has informed the attorney general of Minnesota that if that State desires its share in the federal appropriation for good roads it must not employ laborers on such roads longer than eight hours a day. This notice will undoubtedly have the effect of prompting the next state legislature of Minnesota to enact a law calling for the eight-hour day in harmony with the federal law. This is one of the measures which the American Federation of Labor fought so long for, and which was finally passed during the Sixty-second Congress.

SHEET METAL WORKERS WIN.

Erie, Pa., Aug. 2.—Members of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union have won their first battle with their employers. The members wanted the eight hour day at 37 1-2 cents an hour, time and a half for overtime and double time on Sundays and holidays. The demands of the union were all granted except the eight hour day, which is considered to be a great victory. This was the last union in the Building Trades Council to have a dispute this year and every union in the Council gained something. This is a record which will add effectiveness and strength to the Building Trades.

TEAMSTERS STRIKE.

Pueblo, Colo., Aug. 2.—While a number of teaming firms have signed the new agreement of the Teamsters, calling for an increased wage and better conditions, a large number of employers have refused, and a strike is in progress.

FLOUR MILL LOCKOUT.

Chickasha, Okla., Aug. 2.—The Chickasha Milling Company has locked out its employes because they availed themselves of the right of joining the Flour and Cereal Mill Employees' Union.

WILL ARBITRATE.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The controversy which raged between the representatives of the Conductors and Trainmen of the Eastern Roads has been concluded by an agreement to submit the grievances of the two Brotherhoods to a Board of Arbitration created agreeable to the terms of the new Mediation, Conciliation, and Arbitration Law, passed by Congress. At first the railroads insisted that the grievances which they claimed to have against the Brotherhoods should be considered by the Arbitration Board, which was to have under consideration the grievances of the Brotherhoods. The Railroad Brotherhoods objected to this, and a threat was made that if the railroads insisted upon their course a strike would be called. The mediators—Judge William Lee Chambers, Judge Martin A. Knapp, and G. W. W. Hanger—were successful in securing an agreement to arbitrate, the railroads withdrawing their demands. This will leave the sixteen original demands presented by the conductors and trainmen to be decided by the Arbitration Board. The railroads, however, gained an important point in that it was agreed that the award to be made by the Board of Arbitration is to be effective on October 1 next, instead of May 1 last, the date requested by the employes. The Board of Mediation will not again be called into action unless the four arbitrators, two to be nominated by the railroads and two by the Trainmen and Conductors, fail to agree on a fifth and sixth to complete the Board. In that contingency the Mediation Board will select the two necessary members.

CHILD LABOR BILL.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Legislation designed to prevent the employment of children under fourteen years of age in mines and factories and to prevent the employment of women in manufacturing establishments for more than eight hours a day have been under consideration by the House Labor Committee. The Committee took up the bill introduced by Representative Taylor of Colorado to forbid the transportation in interstate commerce of the products of mines and factories employing children under fourteen and the products of factories which work women more than eight hours a day. Representative Taylor, Representative Gardner of Massachusetts, and Senator Kenyon of Iowa, who have introduced bills of a similar nature, appeared before the House Labor Committee in support of the general principles involved in the bill. General hearings on the bills will be held by the committee on a later date.

DEMANDS POUND OF FLESH.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 2.—Some six years ago a strike of Electrical Workers occurred against the Bell and National Telephone Companies. As a result of this strike a suit was instituted and an injunction granted by Judge Dayton. The cost of this suit amounted to about $700 and was assessed against the former strikers, some of whose homes are now held under attachment for the payment of this cost bill. The Bell Company has been appealed to to release its hold upon the savings of the men, but it has been unavailing. Therefore the Electrical Workers have appealed for sufficient funds to pay off this court judgment. It has been announced that over $280 has already been raised and efforts are to be continued to secure sufficient money to liquidate the court claim, and save the property of the workers.

TO CUT PRINTING.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Having deprived Representatives of their embossed stationary, thereby causing an annual saving of $60,000 a year, the joint committee on printing of the two houses of Congress is preparing to launch an extensive investigation of the government printing office. It is asserted that Congress wastes as high as $1,000,000 a year in the printing of useless documents. It is not expected that any irregularities will be found, as the wasteful methods are attributable to Congress itself. The annual report of the house bookkeeper shows that millions of documents are stored in the capitol basement and ultimately must be disposed of as waste paper. Some of these documents are bound books running from 200 to 500 pages. The system to be inaugurated is the devising of some plan to prevent any but useful documents being printed.

APPOINTS MAHON.

Detroit, Aug. 2.—International President William D. Mahon of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees has been appointed by the Mayor of this city as a member of the Detroit Municipal Street Railway Board of Commissioners. This position is purely honorary, and President Mahon accepted the appointment at the instance of the Detroit Federation of Labor. The appointment is a tribute to President Mahon, and indicates the high esteem in which he is held by the people of his home city. His knowledge of traction lines is perhaps greater than any other individual in this country, he having been at the head of the Street Carmen's organization for over twenty years, constantly dealing with the problems which are to be encountered daily in the operation of street car systems.

PRONOUNCED SUCCESS.

Dallas, Tex., Aug. 2.—The Dallas Labor Forward Movement is a pronounced success and each succeeding Sunday meeting has called out a larger attendance and a deeper interest in these meetings. An effort is being made by the Building Trades to compile a comprehensive list of union-built houses that are for rent, with a view of urging members or organized labor and its friends to live in union-built houses. This is one of the results of the labor forward movement.

ORGANIZE STREET CARMEN.

Brandon, Can., Aug. 2.—This town recently commenced the operation of a municipally owned street railway system. The motormen and conductors employed upon the road applied to the Winnipeg Street Railway Men's Union for assistance in organizing a local union. The assistance was forthcoming, and a Trolleymen's Union has been established and is now in working order. It is not expected that any change in present conditions will be asked for.

GLOVE MAKERS STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Aug. 2.—Demanding a minimum wage of $6 a week, the girls employed by the Never Rip Glove Company came out on strike and asserted that they propose to stay out until their demands are met. The girls state that they have been paid 3½ cents a dozen to sew gloves, which enables them to average about $1 cents a day. They also complain of the docking system in vogue. The girls are not organized.

ARBITRATION AWARD.

Cincinnati, Aug. 2.—It will be remembered that as a result of the strike of the Trolleymen a decision was reached whereby the points at issue were to be submitted to an arbitration board. Upon this conclusion being arrived at the men returned to work and the arbitration board has just rendered its findings. The award increased the wages approximately 10 per cent and reduces the number of years required to reach the maximum rate from 16 to 8. The maximum rate is increased from 25 cents to 27 cents an hour, and the increase for most men runs 2 cents per hour, although for some it is as high as 3 cents and 4 cents. Time and one-third will be paid for all overtime. New men are guaranteed a minimum of $45 per month if they show up for work and do not get it. Formerly they received no pay unless they went to work. A number of other important regulations are contained in the award, with the further provision that there is to be arbitration of all differences that cannot be settled by conference, thus doing away with the possibility of strikes and lockouts. The award further returned to work forty-one employes that were objected to and rejected sixteen men whose cases were presented by the union for reinstatement.

STREET CAR SYSTEM PAYING.

San Francisco, Aug. 2.—The Geary Street Municipal Railway is proving to be a splendid investment. This road was put into operation for business in the closing days of last December, in fact, the four last days of December. From December 28, last year, to June 30, this year, the receipts of this municipal road aggregated $134,923.85, while the expenditures reached $73,366.98. This leaves an excess of receipts over expenditures of $61,556.87. The interest on the investment has been computed to be $29,647.67. Therefore for the approximate six months this municipal road shows a net profit over all expenses of $31,909.20, and yet there are some newspapers in San Francisco opposing a bond issue to increase the mileage of this municipally owned street railway system. The success of the road is a challenge to the opposition.

CRYING FOR HELP.

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 2.—The general contractors, better known as the "open shoppers," in their desperation appealed to the Circuit Court for an injunction, and a temporary writ has been issued restraining the building trades from alleged interference with the "open shop" propaganda. The building trades unions in this city have been and are supporting the Carpenters in their demand for a 5-cent per hour increase. Under the rules of the building trades, the buildings under construction must be conducted under the union shop plan, and where nonunion men are employed at any trade the other trades refuse to perform service. The injunction is aimed at this situation, with the assumption that the court can force men to work against their will. The taking of this action by the contractors demonstrates at least one thing, and that is that the open shop proposition is not meeting with any large measure of success.

ORGANIZING MACHINISTS.

Springfield, Mass., Aug. 2.—The struggle to organize the Machinists in this city, which has been on for a number of years, is now showing greater progress than ever before. There are large numbers of Machinists employed here, but owing to the conditions existing it has been difficult to interest them in organization. With the general organizing movement on throughout the country, the increased cost of living, and other material changes, it seems to have aroused a greater interest among this class of workers in iron than ever before. Organizers are giving much attention to the Machinists, and are to continue their work.

NO OBJECTION TO THIS.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Aug. 2.—Vincent Astor, one of the exceedingly wealthy young men of this section of the country, has adopted a plan which is commendable. Astor has announced that he will hold weekly conferences with his employes on his estate at Rhinebeck. In pursuance of a plan of making a careful study of how to manage the affairs of his extensive estate, Mr. Astor has appointed Saturday morning of each week as the time when persons in his employ may meet him and relate any grievances or make any complaint. It is stated that the employes are exceedingly pleased with this new order of things.

WHEELING FORWARD.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 2.—The local unions in this city have agreed to finance a campaign of organization, and their representatives are to meet and outline a campaign in the immediate future. Over twenty local unions have voted in favor of the campaign to organize the unorganized wage workers and to assess themselves for that purpose. The International Unions will be asked to render assistance, and it is expected that as a result of this forward movement great good will have been accomplished.

GLASS WORKERS STRIKE.

Buffalo, Aug. 2.—The strike of the Glaziers, Glass Cutters, and Glass Handlers continues. The strikers have been re-enforced by the Bevelers and the men from the mirror departments of the struck shops. The employers are not able to secure a complement of non-union men. Many men have been brought in, but upon learning the situation have refused to act as strike-breakers. The contest is in good shape.

FIREMEN GET INCREASE.

St. Paul, Aug. 2.—The Stationary Firemen's Union, through its scale committee, has secured a new contract with the local breweries, with a wage increase to all of the members of the union in their employ, raising the compensation of each firemen from $80 to $85 per month. The agreement was retroactive, the increase being paid from June 1.

CLERKS' NEW PRESIDENT.

Lafayette, Ind., Aug. 2.—The report of the international canvassing board of the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association shows that Frank Kierman, of Boston, Mass., has been elected president of the association. Charles Pfell, of Oshkosh, Wis., is the present incumbent, and was defeated by Kierman. This was practically the only contest. H. J. Conway was re-elected secretary-treasurer without opposition.

STEAMFITTERS CONFIDENT.

Worcester, Mass., Aug. 2.—With the settlement of several small shops the officers of the Steamfitters' Union, which organization went on strike for increased wages and a shorter work week, feel it will be only a question of a short time when a settlement will be reached in most, if not all, of the shops.

FEDERATION INCREASE.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The total per capita tax payments to the American Federation of Labor for the month of June, 1912, showed a membership of 1,703,749, while the per capita tax payments in June, 1913, showed an aggregate membership of 2,026,716. Thus June, 1913, shows an increase over June, 1912, of 322,967.

COPPER STRIKE.

Calumet, Mich., Aug. 2.—Over 15,000 miners in the copper belt are out on strike, the large majority being members of the Western Federation of Miners. Immediately the Governor was called upon to order out the militia, which he did instanter, and sent it to the affected district. The strikers consist for the most part of young unmarried Austrians, Finns, Hungarians, and Bulgarians. The representatives of the Western Federation of Miners are endeavoring to secure a conference with the mine managers, but this, it is said, will not be granted. The mining companies in this section take the usual position of big mining companies of refusing to deal with their employes. A large number of nonunion English-speaking miners have left and are leaving the copper country on all trains. In the strike area of about seventy-five miles 25,000 or more men are idle, the original strikers affecting other subsidiary plants. The copper district of Michigan contains mines that are profitable almost beyond the dreams of avarice, several of these mining companies having paid enormous dividends for many years, and yet they are unwilling to slightly advance the wages of their employes, even though the conditions of life make that almost absolutely necessary. It will be noted, too, that the major portion of the employes in the copper country come from foreign countries.

LABOR SUNDAY.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The Commission on the Church and Social Service is now sending out literature to clergymen throughout the country containing suggestions for Labor Sunday. This year it is urged that aside from the usual morning service devoted to some phase of the labor question, union services be held in the evening, all churches combining, where feasible, to conduct a mass meeting. Labor Sunday occurs this year on August 31. Local ministers are advised to communicate with the Central Labor Union in their cities as well as with the local unions, and an effort made to jointly interest labor men and others to make this a memorable Sunday. The Commission is sending out an "order of service," and where it is advisable to have a number of copies of this program they can be procured by addressing Charles S. McFarland, Secretary, 1611 Clarendon Building, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TROLLEYMEN

Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 2.—The membership of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, approximating 2,000, in Vancouver, New Westminster, and Victoria, is awaiting a decision under the Industrial Disputes and Investigation Act in their controversy with the British Columbia Electric Railway Company. The company is contesting every item of the old agreement and trying to take from the employes many of the concessions which have prevailed for years. At the present rate of progress it will be some little time before the board will be in a position to announce its award. The contract between the unions and the company expired on June 30, and negotiations have been on since prior to the date mentioned.

THE TRUTH HURTS.

Philadelphia, Aug. 2.—An attorney for the National Association of Manufacturers has announced that a libel suit for $500,000 damages will be filed against the Philadelphia North American, the suit to be based on an editorial in the North American, in which the National Association of Manufacturers was referred to as "criminal conspirators." The same attorney asserted that other papers that had exceeded the latitude of "press freedom" would also be sued. If this policy is to be pursued the National Association of Manufacturers will not have quite so much money to expend in bribery and corruption.

WOMEN CLERKS.

Zanesville, Ohio, Aug. 2.—The union clerks in this city have benefited materially by the new fifty-four hour law, which is about to go into effect. The merchants here have arranged a schedule, whereby the clerks are to have two hours taken off the usually long Saturday. The new schedule arranges for closing at 9 o'clock at night instead of 10. Other arrangements have been made, making the hours reasonable, and materially assisting the women clerks.

WARNED TO PAY DEBTS.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Secretary Garrison, of the War Department, has issued a notice to the employes of that Department, advising that all honest obligations incurred be met promptly. The employes are cautioned against the contracting of obligations which they are unable to meet, and the notice closes: "Employes who contract indebtedness and then without sufficient excuse or reason neglect or avoid payment thereof will be discharged."

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The Journeymen Tailors' Union will convene in Bloomington, Ill., on August 4. It is stated that there are two questions that will receive consideration at the convention—industrial unionism and the general strike. Efforts also are to be made to change the headquarters, and Cleveland, Ohio, is thought to have a splendid chance to win. There is a strike on at present in Cincinnati for better conditions, the strike being exceedingly effective.

PAINT CREEK SETTLEMENT.

Scranton, Pa., Aug. 2.—A settlement has been reached in the Paint Creek District of West Virginia by John P. White, representing the United Mine Workers, and the Paint Creek Collieries Company. The agreement calls for the right of the employes to employ a checkweighman and also the check-off system. This is the conclusion of a sixteen months' strike.

THE LOBBY INVESTIGATION.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The lobby investigation being conducted by a committee of the United States Senate is still going on. The principal matters handled by the committee thus far has been the identification by Col. Mulhall of thousands of communications written by this representative of the band of commercial guerrillas familiarly known as the National Association of Manufacturers. Many of those accused of assisting the National Association of Manufacturers are denying the statements made by Col. Mulhall, even going so far as asserting that they have never met this agent of the manufacturers. The grilling of the colonel was so hard and continuous that he appealed to the committee for a respite of two or three days in order to recuperate. This was granted. It has been determined by the committee that permission will be accorded the attorneys for the manufacturers to cross-examine the colonel. It has also been further provided that President Gompers and other officials of the American Federation of Labor are to appear before the committee. The latter will undoubtedly testify before the committee in the near future.

PENSIONS BEING PAID.

Seattle, Aug. 2.—Ten women have been granted pensions under the Mothers' Pension Law enacted by the last legislature. These were the first pensions sanctioned, there having been fifteen cases heard, three being denied and two referred for further investigation, while the ten applications were granted. The largest pension granted was for $37.50 a month to a destitute widow with seven children. The amounts granted in the other cases ranged from $15 a month to $30 a month, according to the circumstances of the petitioners. The investigator of the Pension Department reported to the court having the execution of the law in hand, that 300 applications for Mothers' Pensions have been filed, of which 150 were found to come within the provisions of the law.

DUALISTS ACTIVE.

Pittston, Pa., Aug. 2.—The activities of the I. W. W.'s in some parts of the anthracite coal regions of Northeastern Pennsylvania are giving considerable concern to the officials of the United Mine Workers. This delectable contingent is endeavoring to organize the mine workers for the purpose of dividing the United Mine Workers, their mission being identical with that of the National Association of Manufacturers. Sporadic and what are called "button strikes" are taking place. The newly arrived foreigners seem to be impressed with the extravagant promises of I. W. W. organizers and is more easily influenced. Not much headway has been made, but the I. W. W.'s are a source of much annoyance to the United Mine Workers.

COAL INQUIRY TO CONTINUE.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Senators Swanson and Kenyon, of the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, will proceed to West Virginia as soon as the tariff bill is passed by the Senate. This committee will go for the purpose of completing the investigation in West Virginia relative to the coal fields situation, as there are about sixty witnesses yet to be examined. The Attorney General has begun the consideration of the circumstances connected with the finding of indictments against mine operators in the West Virginia coal fields, which were presented to the court at Charleston several weeks ago by the United States District Attorney.

STRIKING MOLDERS.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 2.—About 900 union Molders of this city and vicinity are on strike. Little success has so far attended the efforts of the employers to secure men to take their places. It is stated that advertisements are appearing in various parts of the country, asking for Molders. All sections of the country should be appraised of the fact that a strike is on here. There seems to be no question as to the final outcome, as it is exceedingly difficult to secure sufficient nonunion Molders to even make a pretense of breaking the strike.

NAME ARBITRATORS.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The Eastern railroads have selected W. W. Atterbury, vice president of the Pennsylvania, and A. H. Smith, vice president of the New York Central, to represent them in the arbitration proceedings to settle the demands of the conductors and trainmen under the new Newlands law. Lucius Sheppard and Daniel L. Cease have been selected by the two organizations named. Those four will select the other two, failing in which the Federal Board of Mediation and Conciliation will select them. The full board of arbitrators will have forty-five days in which to take testimony and make an award.

PATERSON STRIKE ENDED.

Paterson, N. J., Aug. 2.—The big silk strike is over, and the employes who left the mills over five months ago are seeking their old places. Many of them have secured employment, but there has been over twenty small institutions that have suspended business. This leaves a considerable number of people without an opportunity to get their old positions, and the mills that have reopened cannot employ a full complement for some time to come.

BRICKLAYERS STRIKE.

Calgary, Aug. 2.—After continuing negotiations with the Builders' Exchange for a considerable period to secure a ratification of the new wage schedule of 70 cents per hour, the Bricklayers have ceased work. Twenty-three of the contractors, immediately upon the opening of the strike, acceded to the demands and are now paying the new scale. The new scale is an increase of 2 1-2 cents per hour.

LOCK OUT AND STRIKE OFF.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Dispatches from Kansas City, Mo., are to the effect that the serious difficulty in the building trades, resulting from the Bricklayers demanding jurisdiction over work generally conceded to other organizations, has been adjusted. As to what the terms of adjustment were are not stated, the bare fact only being given out that a settlement of the controversy has been reached.

"CINCY" TEAMSTERS STRIKE.

Cincinnati, Aug. 2.—Practically 2,000 Teamsters are on strike following the breaking off of negotiations between the representatives of the union and the Employers' Association. The only Teamsters not affected are the Bakery and Ice Wagon Drivers, whose grievances have just been adjusted.

TRAINMEN DISTURBED.

San Francisco, Aug. 2.—Thousands of Southern Pacific trainmen are apprehensive of the future, fearing that the electrification of the Southern Pacific railroads' lines will mean much change in the methods and wage scales now in vogue. A strike vote has been taken, but not announced as yet. The trouble seems to be that the company has failed to extend an interchange of rights to its electrified lines and there is also a disposition to deal with the employes of the electrified lines distinct and apart from the employes of the steam lines. The trainmen have demanded that the rights of the main line conductors, both freight and passenger, on the Western Division, should be extended to cover suburban territory electrically operated, dating their seniority in the suburban service behind the youngest suburban conductors. At present the Southern Pacific is building forty-four miles of track in Oregon, which is being electrified, and is electrifying about 200 miles of the branch line territory, now being operated as a part of the Portland Division, proposing to turn all this steam territory and the new track over to the Portland, Eugene and Eastern to be operated as a subsidiary line independent of the parent company. The situation presents many curious angles and the final solution will be interesting.

"CORKSCREW" DECISION.

Washington, Aug. 2.—According to a report coming from the city of Seattle, Wash., a minimum wage scale of $2.75 per day on street work can be enforced. This is in accordance with the decision handed down by the Supreme Court of the State, but a portion of its decision is of the corkscrew variety, in that a contractor employed in constructing a street railway line owned by the city is permitted to pay any old wage, even though the city charter requires that the wage shall be $2.75 per day. As the matter stands now, where the city directly employes labor, the $2.75 wage is effective, but where contracts are let the contractor is not bound by the minimum wage provision in the charter. And still the wonder is why the courts are being continually criticised and made the butt of ridicule and are in popular disfavor.

ERIE WAY.

Erie, Aug. 2.—Because several of their Machinists joined the union the Reed Manufacturing Company discharged about 80 men, leaving only about fifteen in their employ. These latter, however, seeing the injustice being done, came out and joined those who had been discharged, and since that time the plant has been practically closed, owing to the firm's inability to secure men. The union Machinists at the Ball Engine Works were also discharged because they were members of the union, and this shop is now closed against all union men. Other firms, it is asserted, have either told or intimated that those who belong to unions are to be discharged. This sort of a campaign by the employers, while unfair and unjust, will eventually have the effect of creating conditions whereby it will be impossible for these firms to employ other than union mechanics.

SHEET METAL WORKERS.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 2.—The seventeenth biennial convention of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance will be held in Atlanta, Ga., beginning on August 4, 1913. There will be 150 delegates in attendance, and it will be one of the most important conventions ever held by the alliance. The annual meeting of the general executive board is in progress, the board meeting the week previous to the convention. Likewise the constitution committee is in session discussing proposed amendments and supervising a general revision of the constitution.

RAISE CASH FOR TEMPLE.

Bellingham, Wash., Aug. 2.—Sufficient funds have been raised by the union men of Bellingham with which to purchase a lot on a prominent street for the purpose of erecting a Labor Temple. The cost of the lot was $2,000 and it is expected that a modest structure, which will meet the present needs, can be constructed for approximately $5,000. All of the organizations in this city are enthusiastic, and preparations are being made to raise the balance of the money needed to carry out the plans already mapped out.

PRESSMEN MAKING PROGRESS.

San Francisco, Aug. 2.—Officials of the Printing Pressmen's Union report that eighty-four independent job printing shops of the city have now signed the new wage scale of the Press Feeders, granting a weekly wage increase of $2.50. There now remain but thirty-four shops that are wholly out against the Press Feeders, among them being the twenty-six shops of the Franklin Printing Trades Association, the employers' organization. No apprehension is felt but that practically all of the remaining firms who are still resisting will eventually meet the increased wage scale.

BOILERMAKERS GET AGREEMENT

St. Louis, Aug. 2.—After having been in negotiations with the Employers for over two months, the Boilermakers have secured an agreement, which provides for an eight-hour day for inside work, nine hours for the outside, and a Saturday half-holiday. For the first time the Helpers have received recognition in the shape of a minimum wage of 27½ cents per hour. The agreement covers all shops except one.

GRANITE CUTTERS WIN.

New York, Aug. 2.—The strike of the Granite Cutters of Greater New York, which began May 1, has closed, the strikers returning to work with a wage increase of 50 cents per day. The employers pulled off a new stunt by organizing a rival union, but the plan didn't pan out. The union secured an increase in pay, recognition, and better working conditions.

WOMEN'S HOURS FIXED.

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 2.—Gov. Tener has approved the bill reducing working hours of women from sixty to fifty-four hours per week, with not more than ten hours a day. No female under twenty-one years of age is permitted to work in a manufacturing establishment all night.

PUDDLERS GET MORE.

Reading, Pa., Aug. 2.—The puddlers in the employ of the Reading Iron company, 3,000 in number, have secured an increase in pay from $4.75 to $5 per ton. It is said that assurances have been given by the company that a further advance will be given if trade conditions warrant.

BROADENS PARCEL POST.

Washington, Aug. 2.—When the Postmaster General issued an order increasing the size of parcels and reducing the rates in the first and second zones to take effect August 15, a protest was immediately raised, the railroads and the express companies voicing their objections to the change. The Senate Postoffice Committee also ordered the Postmaster General to appear and give an accounting of his action, the committee assuming that the official had exceeded his authority under the law. Upon appearing before the committee and explaining the reasons for the change, the consensus of opinion among the members of the committee was to the effect that the order was wise and would be of benefit to the public and would not result in a loss to the government as at first feared. The committee also conceded that the Postmaster General had not exceeded his authority under the law. The changes made are that on and after August 15 the limit of weight of parcels of fourth class mail for delivery within the first and second zones is increased from eleven to twenty pounds. The rate of postage on parcels exceeding four ounces in weight is to be 5 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional two pounds or fraction thereof when intended for local delivery, and 5 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional pound or fraction thereof when intended for delivery at other offices within the first and second zones. This is a considerable reduction in the rate, but it is claimed by men who are considered experts that packages reaching 100 pounds in weight can be profitably shipped by the postoffice department under a rate far below that of the express companies and yield a splendid revenue to the postoffice department.

CARPENTERS.

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 2.—Secretary Frank Duffy reports that the local union of the Brotherhood at Rome, N. Y., has won its strike for an increase in wages from 45 to 50 cents per hour, with the further agreement that the contractors will assist in getting non-union carpenters into the organization. At Westerly, R. I., a strike of brief duration resulted in an increase of wages from $3 to $3.37½ the first year and to $3.50 the second year. The following unions were organized during the month of June: Eugene, Ore.; Boston, Mass. (boxmakers); Chicoutimi, Canada; Medina, N. Y.; Cleburne, Texas; Redondo, Cal.; Casper, Wyo.; Hackensack, N. J.; Decatur, Texas; Minneapolis, Minn. (boxmakers); Portage, Pa.; Watertown, S. D.; Denton, Texas; South Hampton, N. Y.; Strawn, Texas; Akron, Ohio; Coalgate, Okla.; Jamestown, N. Y. (furniture workers); Salisbury, N. C.; Bessemer, Ala.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Oakdale, La.; Clifton, Ariz., and Vernon, Texas.

CONTRACTORS MUST OBEY.

Denver, Aug. 2.—Considerable friction has been brought about by the contractors for the city not paying the minimum wage to laborers called for in a city ordinance. The minimum wage is $2.50 per day of eight hours, but a number of contractors in this city have only been paying $2. While this matter has been brought to the attention of the city authorities before and an opinion rendered that the ordinance was valid, the contractors have persisted in violating the ordinance. The city attorney has now rendered an opinion that where contractors for the city do not pay the minimum wage of $2.50 per day of eight hours their contracts are automatically cancelled. This opinion has had the effect of bringing the contractors to a realization that the ordinance must be obeyed.

A GOOD SETTLEMENT.

Toronto, Can., Aug. 2.—The decision of the arbitrators appointed to settle the differences between the Toronto Hydro-Electric Commission and the Electrical Workers is satisfactory to the employes. The two arbitrators selected found it unnecessary to call in a third, as the terms were agreed to by the two sides. Under the ruling of the arbitrators the increase in wages ranges from 11 per cent to 18 per cent, according to the class of work on which the men are engaged. The award includes holiday periods with pay, as well as alternate Saturday afternoons to all employes paid by the hour. Men employed by the month will receive two weeks' holiday with pay.

FARMERS AND UNIONISTS.

Waycross, Ga., Aug. 2.—Recently over 2000 union farmers and trade unionists gathered here for an all-day session. Charles S. Barrett, National President of the Farmers' Union, was the chief spokesman of the day. After the addresses were concluded a motion was unanimously carried providing for the appointment of a committee of three from the Farmers' Union and three trade unionists to formulate some plan of cooperation. The convention also indorsed the compulsory education bill and the free kindergarden bill, now before the legislature.

STEREOTYPERS GET RAISE.

Sioux City, Aug. 2.—The scale of the Stereotypers' Union, which has been under negotiations for several months, has finally been settled, and an increase of $2 per week granted. The former scale was $18, thus bringing the new scale up to $20, and although this increase did not meet the demand, it was finally concluded that a compromise under the circumstances would be the best [illegible] rather than to submit the matter to a board of arbitration.

MINERS FOR REPEAL.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 2.—An agitation is being carried on by the United Mine Workers and organized labor generally for the repeal of section 13 of the Mining Bill. This [illegible] prohibits the shooting of coal from the solid, the present method, making it a misdemeanor after the present contract between the mine employers and the employes expires. The United Mine Workers have sent men into the field for the purpose of advising the repeal of this section.

ORGANIZE BUILDING TRADES

Buffalo, Aug. 2.—At the organization [illegible] the Building Trades Department, destined to become operative under the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., the building trades crafts were represented and temporary officers elected. The outlook is good for the new Council [illegible] all legitimate unions on its roster.

CAR CLEANERS STRI

Sioux City, Iowa, Aug. [illegible] Cleaners at the North-Western Omaha Station have made a [illegible] an increase in wages of [illegible] hour over the present scale. The company refused [illegible] demands and the Car [illegible] The strikers are all [illegible]

The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and instruction of the St. Louis Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly free of cost, to all official labor and reform publications.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 10, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 3. NO. 18 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1913. WHOLE NO. 122

THE BINGHAMTON TRAGEDY.

Binghamton, N. Y., Aug. 2.—According to the latest information, the dead in the Binghampton Clothing Company fire reaches forty-one, although there are still sixteen persons missing. Twenty-nine bodies have been recovered from the ruins, but only five of these have been positively identified. The investigation has developed facts which show criminal negligence, either upon the part of the owners of the building or the factory inspectors. It is stated that the factory was operated in absolute defiance of the law, it having but one continuous exit from the fourth floor, the law requiring that there must be at least two. There were no real solid treads upon the fire escapes, and the general construction of the fire escapes did not conform to the law. If it is proven that inspectors examined the building and passed the fire escapes as adequate, it is asserted that their action was criminal. One official of the State, who was here with other State officials, declared that the factory was a death trap. Mr. Whiskeman, who made an investigation of the Triangle fire for District Attorney Whitman, declared that there was more criminal carelessness in the fire here than at the Triangle blaze. His investigation revealed the fact that a stairway running through the company's building had been removed to make room for more manufacturing area. "It is another case of dollars and cents being placed above human life," was Mr. Whiskeman's statement. Another statement which has been given out is to the effect that attention was called by one of the employes to the unusual heat in the building at 1 o'clock, and that smoke was noticeable at 2 o'clock, while the flames were discovered at 2:30. This indicates again a lack of precaution in the conduct of the factory. This is one more instance where a desire for profit had grown to such an extent as to practically waive aside even the slightest precaution for the protection of workmen and workwomen.

TO PUNISH LANDLORDS.

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 2.—Commissioner of Public Safety, D. C. Coates, a member of the Typographical Union, proposes to take advantage of what is termed the abatement law to eliminate from this city public houses of prostitution. He has announced that the law is to be enforced. According to the new abatement law, it is up to the owner to see that prostitution is not carried on in his building on penalty of having the same closed to any business for six months, and furniture and effects confiscated. It has heretofore been the custom to make periodical raids upon these resorts, resulting in the fining of the habitues anywhere from $25 to $100. It was only recently that Dave Coates was transferred, under the commission form of government, from the Commissioner of Property to the Commissioner of Public Safety. Under his former position the men employed by the city received an advance in wages and worked under good conditions. Influences largely of an invisible character secured his transfer from that department to the Commissioner of Public Safety; this, with the evident purpose of restricting his activity along humanitarian lines. As cited above, it is quite evident that the mercenaries and invisible interests have been unable to lose Dave Coates.

A GOOD LAW.

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 2.—The Governor has signed what is known as the Hidinger Bill, which provides for better housing conditions. The act creates a division of housing and sanitation, subject to the Department of Public Health and Charities. This act provides that no room in any tenement constructed since June 7, 1895, shall be occupied for living purposes unless it has a window lighting area of at least twelve feet square. Manufacturing within rooms of tenements and dwellings is prohibited. Tenements must have an open space in the rear or at the side equal to 20 per cent of the lot, unless such tenement is located upon the corner of two streets, each more than twenty feet in width. Licenses will be granted by the Board of Health for $1 to owners or lessees, and the taking out of such license is obligatory.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION.

Austin, Tex., Aug. 2.—The organized employes on the railroads in this State are confronting a situation that is considered to be dangerous. The Thirty-third Legislature is in special session, and it is understood that a bill providing for compulsory arbitration will be introduced, the Governor favoring the enactment of such a law. While it may be possible that the Legislature will pass a measure of this character it would not stand the test of the courts. The recent mediation bill passed by Congress carries with it a specific provision which precludes any court or legal process being employed to compel any individual to work in accordance with any award arrived at through mediation, conciliation, or arbitration.

MUST OBSERVE THE LAW.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The legal department of the government has informed the attorney general of Minnesota that if that State desires its share in the federal appropriation for good roads it must not employ laborers on such roads longer than eight hours a day. This notice will undoubtedly have the effect of prompting the next state legislature of Minnesota to enact a law calling for the eight-hour day in harmony with the federal law. This is one of the measures which the American Federation of Labor fought so long for, and which was finally passed during the Sixty-second Congress.

SHEET METAL WORKERS WIN.

Erie, Pa., Aug. 2.—Members of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union have won their first battle with their employers. The members wanted the eight hour day at 37 1-2 cents an hour, time and a half for overtime and double time on Sundays and holidays. The demands of the union were all granted except the eight hour day, which is considered to be a great victory. This was the last union in the Building Trades Council to have a dispute this year and every union in the Council gained something. This is a record which will add effectiveness and strength to the Building Trades.

TEAMSTERS STRIKE.

Pueblo, Colo., Aug. 2.—While a number of teaming firms have signed the new agreement of the Teamsters, calling for an increased wage and better conditions, a large number of employers have refused, and a strike is in progress.

FLOUR MILL LOCKOUT.

Chickasha, Okla., Aug. 2.—The Chickasha Milling Company has locked out its employees because they availed themselves of the right of joining the Flour and Cereal Mill Employees' Union.

WILL ARBITRATE.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The controversy which raged between the representatives of the Conductors and Trainmen of the Eastern Roads has been concluded by an agreement to submit the grievances of the two Brotherhoods to a Board of Arbitration created agreeable to the terms of the new Mediation, Conciliation, and Arbitration Law, passed by Congress. At first the railroads insisted that the grievances which they claimed to have against the Brotherhoods should be considered by the Arbitration Board, which was to have under consideration the grievances of the Brotherhoods. The Railroad Brotherhoods objected to this, and a threat was made that if the railroads insisted upon their course a strike would be called. The mediators—Judge William Lee Chambers, Judge Martin A. Knapp, and G. W. W. Hanger—were successful in securing an agreement to arbitrate, the railroads withdrawing their demands. This will leave the sixteen original demands presented by the conductors and trainmen to be decided by the Arbitration Board. The railroads, however, gained an important point in that it was agreed that the award to be made by the Board of Arbitration is to be effective on October 1 next, instead of May 1 last, the date requested by the employes. The Board of Mediation will not again be called into action unless the four arbitrators, two to be nominated by the railroads and two by the Trainmen and Conductors, fail to agree on a fifth and sixth to complete the Board. In that contingency the Mediation Board will select the two necessary members.

CHILD LABOR BILL.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Legislation designed to prevent the employment of children under fourteen years of age in mines and factories and to prevent the employment of women in manufacturing establishments for more than eight hours a day have been under consideration by the House Labor Committee. The Committee took up the bill introduced by Representative Taylor of Colorado to forbid the transportation in interstate commerce of the products of mines and factories employing children under fourteen and the products of factories which work women more than eight hours a day. Representative Taylor, Representative Gardner of Massachusetts, and Senator Kenyon of Iowa, who have introduced bills of a similar nature, appeared before the House Labor Committee in support of the general principles involved in the bill. General hearings on the bills will be held by the committee on a later date.

DEMANDS POUND OF FLESH.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 2.—Some six years ago a strike of Electrical Workers occurred against the Bell and National Telephone Companies. As a result of this strike a suit was instituted and an injunction granted by Judge Dayton. The cost of this suit amounted to about $700 and was assessed against the former strikers, some of whose homes are now held under attachment for the payment of this cost bill. The Bell Company has been appealed to to release its hold upon the savings of the men, but it has been unavailing. Therefore the Electrical Workers have appealed for sufficient funds to pay off this court judgment. It has been announced that over $200 has already been raised and efforts are to be continued to secure sufficient money to liquidate the court claim, and save the property of the workers.

TO CUT PRINTING.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Having deprived Representatives of their embossed stationary, thereby causing an annual saving of $60,000 a year, the joint committee on printing of the two houses of Congress is preparing to launch an extensive investigation of the government printing office. It is asserted that Congress wastes as high as $1,000,000 a year in the printing of useless documents. It is not expected that any irregularities will be found, as the wasteful methods are attributable to Congress itself. The annual report of the house bookkeeper shows that millions of documents are stored in the capitol basement and ultimately must be disposed of as waste paper. Some of these documents are bound books running from 200 to 500 pages. The system to be inaugurated is the devising of some plan to prevent any but useful documents being printed.

APPOINTS MAHON.

Detroit, Aug. 2.—International President William D. Mahon of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees has been appointed by the Mayor of this city as a member of the Detroit Municipal Street Railway Board of Commissioners. This position is purely honorary, and President Mahon accepted the appointment at the instance of the Detroit Federation of Labor. The appointment is a tribute to President Mahon, and indicates the high esteem in which he is held by the people of his home city. His knowledge of traction lines is perhaps greater than any other individual in this country, he having been at the head of the Street Carmen's organization for over twenty years, constantly dealing with the problems which are to be encountered daily in the operation of street car systems.

PRONOUNCED SUCCESS.

Dallas, Tex., Aug. 2.—The Dallas Labor Forward Movement is a pronounced success and each succeeding Sunday meeting has called out a larger attendance and a deeper interest in these meetings. An effort is being made by the Building Trades to compile a comprehensive list of union-built houses that are for rent, with a view of urging members of organized labor and its friends to live in union-built houses. This is one of the results of the labor forward movement.

ORGANIZE STREET CARMEN.

Brandon, Can., Aug. 2.—This town recently commenced the operation of a municipally owned street railway system. The motormen and conductors employed upon the road applied to the Winnipeg Street Railway Men's Union for assistance in organizing a local union. The assistance was forthcoming, and a Trolleymen's Union has been established and is now in working order. It is not expected that any change in present conditions will be asked for.

GLOVE MAKERS STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Aug. 2.—Demanding a minimum wage of $6 a week, the girls employed by the Never Rip Glove Company came out on strike and asserted that they propose to stay out until their demands are met. The girls state that they have been paid 3½ cents a dozen to sew gloves, which enables them to average about 81 cents a day. They also complain of the docking system in vogue. The girls are not organized.

ARBITRATION AWARD.

Cincinnati, Aug. 2.—It will be remembered that as a result of the strike of the Trolleymen a decision was reached whereby the points at issue were to be submitted to an arbitration board. Upon this conclusion being arrived at the men returned to work and the arbitration board has just rendered its findings. The award increased the wages approximately 10 per cent and reduces the number of years required to reach the maximum rate from 16 to 8. The maximum rate is increased from 25 cents to 27 cents an hour, and the increase for most men runs 2 cents per hour, although for some it is as high as 3 cents and 4 cents. Time and one-third will be paid for all overtime. New men are guaranteed a minimum of $45 per month if they show up for work and do not get it. Formerly they received no pay unless they went to work. A number of other important regulations are contained in the award, with the further provision that there is to be arbitration of all differences that cannot be settled by conference, thus doing away with the possibility of strikes and lockouts. The award further returned to work forty-one employes that were objected to and rejected sixteen men whose cases were presented by the union for reinstatement.

STREET CAR SYSTEM PAYING.

San Francisco, Aug. 2.—The Geary Street Municipal Railway is proving to be a splendid investment. This road was put into operation for business in the closing days of last December, in fact, the four last days of December. From December 28, last year, to June 30, this year, the receipts of this municipal road aggregated $134,923.85, while the expenditures reached $73,366.98. This leaves an excess of receipts over expenditures of $61,556.87. The interest on the investment has been computed to be $29,647.67. Therefore for the approximate six months this municipal road shows a net profit over all expenses of $31,909.20, and yet there are some newspapers in San Francisco opposing a bond issue to increase the mileage of this municipally owned street railway system. The success of the road is a challenge to the opposition.

CRYING FOR HELP.

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 2.—The general contractors, better known as the "open shoppers," in their desperation appealed to the Circuit Court for an injunction, and a temporary writ has been issued restraining the building trades from alleged interference with the "open shop" propaganda. The building trades unions in this city have been and are supporting the Carpenters in their demand for a 5-cent per hour increase. Under the rules of the building trades, the buildings under construction must be conducted under the union shop plan, and where non-union men are employed at any trade the other trades refuse to perform service. The injunction is aimed at this situation, with the assumption that the court can force men to work against their will. The taking of this action by the contractors demonstrates at least one thing, and that is that the open shop proposition is not meeting with any large measure of success.

ORGANIZING MACHINISTS.

Springfield, Mass., Aug. 2.—The struggle to organize the Machinists in this city, which has been on for a number of years, is now showing greater progress than ever before. There are large numbers of Machinists employed here, but owing to the conditions existing it has been difficult to interest them in organization. With the general organizing movement on throughout the country, the increased cost of living, and other material changes, it seems to have aroused a greater interest among this class of workers in iron than ever before. Organizers are giving much attention to the Machinists, and are to continue their work.

NO OBJECTION TO THIS.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Aug. 2.—Vincent Astor, one of the exceedingly wealthy young men of this section of the country, has adopted a plan which is commendable. Astor has announced that he will hold weekly conferences with his employes on his estate at Rhinebeck. In pursuance of a plan of making a careful study of how to manage the affairs of his extensive estate, Mr. Astor has appointed Saturday morning of each week as the time when persons in his employ may meet him and relate any grievances or make any complaint. It is stated that the employes are exceedingly pleased with this new order of things.

WHEELING FORWARD.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 2.—The local unions in this city have agreed to finance a campaign of organization, and their representatives are to meet and outline a campaign in the immediate future. Over twenty local unions have voted in favor of the campaign to organize the unorganized wage workers and to assess themselves for that purpose. The International Unions will be asked to render assistance, and it is expected that as a result of this forward movement great good will have been accomplished.

GLASS WORKERS STRIKE.

Buffalo, Aug. 2.—The strike of the Glaziers, Glass Cutters, and Glass Handlers continues. The strikers have been re-enforced by the Bevelers and the men from the mirror departments of the struck shops. The employers are not able to secure a complement of non-union men. Many men have been brought in, but upon learning the situation have refused to act as strike-breakers. The contest is in good shape.

FIREMEN GET INCREASE.

St. Paul, Aug. 2.—The Stationary Firemen's Union, through its scale committee, has secured a new contract with the local breweries, with a wage increase to all of the members of the union in their employ, raising the compensation of each firemen from $80 to $85 per month. The agreement was retroactive, the increase being paid from June 1.

CLERKS' NEW PRESIDENT.

Lafayette, Ind., Aug. 2.—The report of the international canvassing board of the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association shows that Frank Kierman, of Boston, Mass., has been elected president of the association. Charles Pfeil, of Oshkosh, Wis., is the present incumbent, and was defeated by Kierman. This was practically the only contest. H. J. Conway was re-elected secretary-treasurer without opposition.

STEAMFITTERS CONFIDENT.

Worcester, Mass., Aug. 2.—With the settlement of several small shops the officers of the Steamfitters' Union, which organization went on strike for increased wages and a shorter work week, feel it will be only a question of a short time when a settlement will be reached in most, if not all, of the shops.

FEDERATION INCREASE.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The total per capita tax payments to the American Federation of Labor for the month of June, 1912, showed a membership of 1,703,749, while the per capita tax payments in June, 1913, showed an aggregate membership of 2,026,716. Thus June, 1913, shows an increase over June, 1912, of 322,967.

COPPER STRIKE.

Calumet, Mich., Aug. 2.—Over 15,000 miners in the copper belt are out on strike, the large majority being members of the Western Federation of Miners. Immediately the Governor was called upon to order out the militia, which he did instanter, and sent it to the affected district. The strikers consist for the most part of young unmarried Austrians, Finns, Hungarians, and Bulgarians. The representatives of the Western Federation of Miners are endeavoring to secure a conference with the mine managers, but this, it is said, will not be granted. The mining companies in this section take the usual position of big mining companies of refusing to deal with their employes. A large number of nonunion English-speaking miners have left and are leaving the copper country on all trains. In the strike area of about seventy-five miles 25,000 or more men are idle, the original strikers affecting other subsidiary plants. The copper district of Michigan contains mines that are profitable almost beyond the dreams of avarice, several of these mining companies having paid enormous dividends for many years, and yet they are unwilling to slightly advance the wages of their employes, even though the conditions of life make that almost absolutely necessary. It will be noted, too, that the major portion of the employes in the copper country come from foreign countries.

LABOR SUNDAY.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The Commission on the Church and Social Service is now sending out literature to clergymen throughout the country containing suggestions for Labor Sunday. This year it is urged that aside from the usual morning service devoted to some phase of the labor question, union services be held in the evening, all churches combining, where feasible, to conduct a mass meeting. Labor Sunday occurs this year on August 31. Local ministers are advised to communicate with the Central Labor Union in their cities as well as with the local unions, and an effort made to jointly interest labor men and others to make this a memorable Sunday. The Commission is sending out an "order of service," and where it is advisable to have a number of copies of this program they can be procured by addressing Charles S. McFarland, Secretary, 1611 Clarendon Building, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TROLLEYMEN

Vancouver, British Columbia, Aug. 2.—The membership of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, approximating 2,000, in Vancouver, New Westminster, and Victoria, is awaiting a decision under the Industrial Disputes and Investigation Act in their controversy with the British Columbia Electric Railway Company. The company is contesting every item of the old agreement and trying to take from the employes many of the concessions which have prevailed for years. At the present rate of progress it will be some little time before the board will be in a position to announce its award. The contract between the unions and the company expired on June 30, and negotiations have been on since prior to the date mentioned.

THE TRUTH HURTS.

Philadelphia, Aug. 2.—An attorney for the National Association of Manufacturers has announced that a libel suit for $500,000 damages will be filed against the Philadelphia North American, the suit to be based on an editorial in the North American, in which the National Association of Manufacturers was referred to as "criminal conspirators." The same attorney asserted that other papers that had exceeded the latitude of "press freedom" would also be sued. If this policy is to be pursued the National Association of Manufacturers will not have quite so much money to expend in bribery and corruption.

WOMEN CLERKS.

Zanesville, Ohio, Aug. 2.—The union clerks in this city have benefited materially by the new fifty-four hour law, which is about to go into effect. The merchants here have arranged a schedule, whereby the clerks are to have two hours taken off the usually long Saturday. The new schedule arranges for closing at 9 o'clock at night instead of 10. Other arrangements have been made, making the hours reasonable, and materially assisting the women clerks.

WARNED TO PAY DEBTS.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Secretary Garrison, of the War Department, has issued a notice to the employes of that Department, advising that all honest obligations incurred be met promptly. The employes are cautioned against the contracting of obligations which they are unable to meet, and the notice closes: "Employes who contract indebtedness and then without sufficient excuse or reason neglect or avoid payment thereof will be discharged."

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The Journeymen Tailors' Union will convene in Bloomington, Ill., on August 4. It is stated that there are two questions that will receive consideration at the convention—industrial unionism and the general strike. Efforts also are to be made to change the headquarters, and Cleveland, Ohio, is thought to have a splendid chance to win. There is a strike on at present in Cincinnati for better conditions, the strike being exceedingly effective.

PAINT CREEK SETTLEMENT.

Scranton, Pa., Aug. 2.—A settlement has been reached in the Paint Creek District of West Virginia by John P. White, representing the United Mine Workers, and the Paint Creek Collieries Company. The agreement calls for the right of the employes to employ a checkweighman and also the check-off system. This is the conclusion of a sixteen months' strike.

THE LOBBY INVESTIGATION.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The lobby investigation being conducted by a committee of the United States Senate is still going on. The principal matters handled by the committee thus far has been the identification by Col. Mulhall of thousands of communications written by this representative of the band of commercial guerrillas familiarly known as the National Association of Manufacturers. Many of those accused of assisting the National Association of Manufacturers are denying the statements made by Col. Mulhall, even going so far as asserting that they have never met this agent of the manufacturers. The grilling of the colonel was so hard and continuous that he appealed to the committee for a respite of two or three days in order to recuperate. This was granted. It has been determined by the committee that permission will be accorded the attorneys for the manufacturers to cross-examine the colonel. It has also been further provided that President Gompers and other officials of the American Federation of Labor are to appear before the committee. The latter will undoubtedly testify before the committee in the near future.

PENSIONS BEING PAID.

Seattle, Aug. 2.—Ten women have been granted pensions under the Mothers' Pension Law enacted by the last legislature. These were the first pensions sanctioned, there having been fifteen cases heard, three being denied and two referred for further investigation, while the ten applications were granted. The largest pension granted was for $37.50 a month to a destitute widow with seven children. The amounts granted in the other cases ranged from $15 a month to $30 a month, according to the circumstances of the petitioners. The investigator of the Pension Department reported to the court having the execution of the law in hand, that 300 applications for Mothers' Pensions have been filed, of which 150 were found to come within the provisions of the law.

DUALISTS ACTIVE.

Pittston, Pa., Aug. 2.—The activities of the I. W. W.'s in some parts of the anthracite coal regions of Northeastern Pennsylvania are giving considerable concern to the officials of the United Mine Workers. This delectable contingent is endeavoring to organize the mine workers for the purpose of dividing the United Mine Workers, their mission being identical with that of the National Association of Manufacturers. Sporadic and what are called "button strikes" are taking place. The newly arrived foreigners seem to be impressed with the extravagant promises of I. W. W. organizers and is more easily influenced. Not much headway has been made, but the I. W. W.'s are a source of much annoyance to the United Mine Workers.

COAL INQUIRY TO CONTINUE.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Senators Swanson and Kenyon, of the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, will proceed to West Virginia as soon as the tariff bill is passed by the Senate. This committee will go for the purpose of completing the investigation in West Virginia relative to the coal fields situation, as there are about sixty witnesses yet to be examined. The Attorney General has begun the consideration of the circumstances connected with the finding of indictments against mine operators in the West Virginia coal fields, which were presented to the court at Charleston several weeks ago by the United States District Attorney.

STRIKING MOLDERS.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 2.—About 900 union Molders of this city and vicinity are on strike. Little success has so far attended the efforts of the employers to secure men to take their places. It is stated that advertisements are appearing in various parts of the country, asking for Molders. All sections of the country should be appraised of the fact that a strike is on here. There seems to be no question as to the final outcome, as it is exceedingly difficult to secure sufficient nonunion Molders to even make a pretense of breaking the strike.

NAME ARBITRATORS.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The Eastern railroads have selected W. W. Atterbury, vice president of the Pennsylvania, and A. H. Smith, vice president of the New York Central, to represent them in the arbitration proceedings to settle the demands of the conductors and trainmen under the new Newlands law. Lucius Sheppard and Daniel L. Cease have been selected by the two organizations named. Those four will select the other two, failing in which the Federal Board of Mediation and Conciliation will select them. The full board of arbitrators will have forty-five days in which to take testimony and make an award.

PATERSON STRIKE ENDED.

Paterson, N. J., Aug. 2.—The big silk strike is over, and the employes who left the mills over five months ago are seeking their old places. Many of them have secured employment, but there has been over twenty small institutions that have suspended business. This leaves a considerable number of people without an opportunity to get their old positions, and the mills that have reopened cannot employ a full complement for some time to come.

BRICKLAYERS STRIKE.

Calgary, Aug. 2.—After continuing negotiations with the Builders' Exchange for a considerable period to secure a ratification of the new wage schedule of 70 cents per hour, the Bricklayers have ceased work. Twenty-three of the contractors, immediately upon the opening of the strike, acceded to the demands and are now paying the new scale. The new scale is an increase of 2 1-2 cents per hour.

LOCK OUT AND STRIKE OFF.

Washington, Aug. 2.—Dispatches from Kansas City, Mo., are to the effect that the serious difficulty in the building trades, resulting from the Bricklayers demanding jurisdiction over work generally conceded to other organizations, has been adjusted. As to what the terms of adjustment were are not stated, the bare fact only being given out that a settlement of the controversy has been reached.

"CINCY" TEAMSTERS STRIKE.

Cincinnati, Aug. 2.—Practically 2,000 Teamsters are on strike following the breaking off of negotiations between the representatives of the union and the Employers' Association. The only Teamsters not affected are the Bakery and Ice Wagon Drivers, whose grievances have just been adjusted.

TRAINMEN DISTURBED.

San Francisco, Aug. 2.—Thousands of Southern Pacific trainmen are apprehensive of the future, fearing that the electrification of the Southern Pacific railroads' lines will mean much change in the methods and wage scales now in vogue. A strike vote has been taken, but not announced as yet. The trouble seems to be that the company has failed to extend an interchange of rights to its electrified lines and there is also a disposition to deal with the employes of the electrified lines distinct and apart from the employes of the steam lines. The trainmen have demanded that the rights of the main line conductors, both freight and passenger, on the Western Division, should be extended to cover suburban territory electrically operated, dating their seniority in the suburban service behind the youngest suburban conductors. At present the Southern Pacific is building forty-four miles of track in Oregon, which is being electrified, and is electrifying about 200 miles of the branch line territory, now being operated as a part of the Portland Division, proposing to turn all this steam territory and the new track over to the Portland, Eugene and Eastern to be operated as a subsidiary line independent of the parent company. The situation presents many curious angles and the final solution will be interesting.

"CORKSCREW" DECISION.

Washington, Aug. 2.—According to a report coming from the city of Seattle, Wash., a minimum wage scale of $2.75 per day on street work can be enforced. This is in accordance with the decision handed down by the Supreme Court of the State, but a portion of its decision is of the corkscrew variety, in that a contractor employed in constructing a street railway line owned by the city is permitted to pay any old wage, even though the city charter requires that the wage shall be $2.75 per day. As the matter stands now, where the city directly employes labor, the $2.75 wage is effective, but where contracts are let the contractor is not bound by the minimum wage provision in the charter. And still the wonder is why the courts are being continually criticised and made the butt of ridicule and are in popular disfavor.

ERIE WAY.

Erie, Aug. 2.—Because several of their Machinists joined the union the Reed Manufacturing Company discharged about 80 men, leaving only about fifteen in their employ. These latter, however, seeing the injustice being done, came out and joined those who had been discharged, and since that time the plant has been practically closed, owing to the firm's inability to secure men. The union Machinists at the Ball Engine Works were also discharged because they were members of the union, and this shop is now closed against all union men. Other firms, it is asserted, have either told or intimated that those who belong to unions are to be discharged. This sort of a campaign by the employers, while unfair and unjust, will eventually have the effect of creating conditions whereby it will be impossible for these firms to employ other than union mechanics.

SHEET METAL WORKERS.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 2.—The seventeenth biennial convention of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance will be held in Atlanta, Ga., beginning on August 4, 1913. There will be 150 delegates in attendance, and it will be one of the most important conventions ever held by the alliance. The annual meeting of the general executive board is in progress, the board meeting the week previous to the convention. Likewise the constitution committee is in session discussing proposed amendments and supervising a general revision of the constitution.

RAISE CASH FOR TEMPLE.

Bellingham, Wash., Aug. 2.—Sufficient funds have been raised by the union men of Bellingham with which to purchase a lot on a prominent street for the purpose of erecting a Labor Temple. The cost of the lot was $2,000 and it is expected that a modest structure, which will meet the present needs, can be constructed for approximately $5,000. All of the organizations in this city are enthusiastic, and preparations are being made to raise the balance of the money needed to carry out the plans already mapped out.

PRESSMEN MAKING PROGRESS.

San Francisco, Aug. 2.—Officials of the Printing Pressmen's Union report that eighty-four independent job printing shops of the city have now signed the new wage scale of the Press Feeders, granting a weekly wage increase of $2.50. There now remain but thirty-four shops that are wholly out against the Press Feeders, among them being the twenty-six shops of the Franklin Printing Trades Association, the employers' organization. No apprehension is felt but that practically all of the remaining firms who are still resisting will eventually meet the increased wage scale.

BOILERMAKERS GET AGREEMENT

St. Louis, Aug. 2.—After having been in negotiations with the Employers for over two months, the Boilermakers have secured an agreement, which provides for an eight-hour day for inside work, nine hours for the outside, and a Saturday half-holiday. For the first time the Helpers have received recognition in the shape of a minimum wage of 27½ cents per hour. The agreement covers all shops except one.

GRANITE CUTTERS WIN.

New York, Aug. 2.—The strike of the Granite Cutters of Greater New York, which began May 1, has closed, the strikers returning to work with a wage increase of 50 cents per day. The employers pulled off a new stunt by organizing a rival union, but the plan didn't pan out. The union secured an increase in pay, recognition, and better working conditions.

WOMEN'S HOURS FIXED.

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 2.—Gov. Tener has approved the bill reducing working hours of women from sixty to fifty-four hours per week, with not more than ten hours a day. No female under twenty-one years of age is permitted to work in a manufacturing establishment all night.

PUDDLERS GET MORE.

Reading, Pa., Aug. 2.—The puddlers in the employ of the Reading Iron company, 3,000 in number, have secured an increase in pay from $4.75 to $5 per ton. It is said that assurances have been given by the company that a further advance will be given if trade conditions warrant.

BROADENS PARCEL POST.

Washington, Aug. 2.—When the Postmaster General issued an order increasing the size of parcels and reducing the rates in the first and second zones to take effect August 15, a protest was immediately raised, the railroads and the express companies voicing their objections to the change. The Senate Post-office Committee also ordered the Postmaster General to appear and give an accounting of his action, the committee assuming that the official had exceeded his authority under the law. Upon appearing before the committee and explaining the reasons for the change, the consensus of opinion among the members of the committee was to the effect that the order was wise and would be of benefit to the public and would not result in a loss to the government as at first feared. The committee also conceded that the Postmaster General had not exceeded his authority under the law. The changes made are that on and after August 15 the limit of weight of parcels of fourth class mail for delivery within the first and second zones is increased from eleven to twenty pounds. The rate of postage on parcels exceeding four ounces in weight is to be 5 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional two pounds or fraction thereof when intended for local delivery, and 5 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional pound or fraction thereof when intended for delivery at other offices within the first and second zones. This is a considerable reduction in the rate, but it is claimed by those who are considered experts that packages reaching 100 pounds in weight can be profitably shipped by the postoffice department under a rate far below that of the express companies and yield a splendid revenue to the postoffice department.

CARPENTERS.

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 2.—Secretary Frank Duffy reports that the local union of the Brotherhood at Rome, N. Y., has won its strike for an increase in wages from 45 to 50 cents per hour, with the further agreement that the contractors will assist in getting non-union carpenters into the organization. At Westerly, R. I., a strike of brief duration resulted in an increase of wages from $3 to $3.37½ the first year and to $3.50 the second year. The following unions were organized during the month of June: Eugene, Ore.; Boston, Mass. (boxmakers); Chicoutimi, Canada; Medina, N. Y.; Cleburne, Texas; Redondo, Cal.; Casper, Wyo.; Hackensack, N. J.; Decatur, Texas; Minneapolis, Minn. (boxmakers); Portage, Pa.; Watertown, S. D.; Denton, Texas; South Hampton, N. Y.; Strawn, Texas; Akron, Ohio; Coalgate, Okla.; Jamestown, N. Y. (furniture workers); Salisbury, N. C.; Bessemer, Ala.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Oakdale, La.; Clifton, Ariz., and Vernon, Texas.

CONTRACTORS MUST OBEY.

Denver, Aug. 2.—Considerable friction has been brought about by the contractors for the city not paying the minimum wage to laborers called for in a city ordinance. The minimum wage is $2.50 per day of eight hours, but a number of contractors in this city have only been paying $2. While this matter has been brought to the attention of the city authorities before and an opinion rendered that the ordinance was valid, the contractors have persisted in violating the ordinance. The city attorney has now rendered an opinion that where contractors for the city do not pay the minimum wage of $2.50 per day of eight hours their contracts are automatically cancelled. This opinion has had the effect of bringing the contractors to a realization that the ordinance must be obeyed.

A GOOD SETTLEMENT.

Toronto, Can., Aug. 2.—The decision of the arbitrators appointed to settle the differences between the Toronto Hydro-Electric Commission and the Electrical Workers is satisfactory to the employes. The two arbitrators selected found it unnecessary to call in a third, as the terms were agreed to by the two sides. Under the ruling of the arbitrators the increase in wages ranges from 11 per cent to 18 per cent, according to the class of work on which the men are engaged. The award includes holiday periods with pay, as well as alternate Saturday afternoons to all employes paid by the hour. Men employed by the month will receive two weeks' holiday with pay.

FARMERS AND UNIONISTS.

Waycross, Ga., Aug. 2.—Recently over 2000 union farmers and trade unionists gathered here for an all-day session. Charles S. Barrett, National President of the Farmers' Union, was the chief spokesman of the day. After the addresses were concluded a motion was unanimously carried providing for the appointment of a committee of three from the Farmers' Union and three trade unionists to formulate some plan of cooperation. The convention also indorsed the compulsory education bill and the free kindergarten bill, now before the legislature.

STEREOTYPERS GET RAISE.

Sioux City, Aug. 2.—The scale of the Stereotypers' Union, which has been under negotiations for several months, has finally been settled, and an increase of $2 per week granted. The former scale was $18, thus bringing the new scale up to $20, and although this increase did not meet the demand, it was finally concluded that a compromise would be better [illegible] than to submit the matter to a board of arbitration.

MINERS FOR REPEAL.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 2.—An agitation is being carried on by the United Mine Workers and organized labor generally for the repeal of section 18 of the Mining Bill, which prohibits the shooting of coal from the solid, the present method, making it a misdemeanor after the present contract between the mine employers and the employes expires. The United Mine Workers have sent men into the field for the purpose of advising the repeal of this section.

ORGANIZE BUILDING TRADES.

Buffalo, Aug. 2.—At the organization of the Building Trades Department [illegible] to become operative under the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., [illegible] building trades crafts were represented and temporary officers elected. [illegible] all legitimate unions on the new Council [illegible]

CAR CLEANERS STRIKE.

Sioux City, Iowa, Aug. 2.—The Car Cleaners at the North-Western [illegible] Omaha Station have made a demand for an increase in wages of [illegible] The company [illegible] and the Car Cleaners [illegible]